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LAST RITES
Part 1 of 4

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR



THE
TERMINATION
OF
TYPHOID!

50
YEARS
OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA

a Bchry Scan



A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

Stan
Lee
PRESENTS:

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

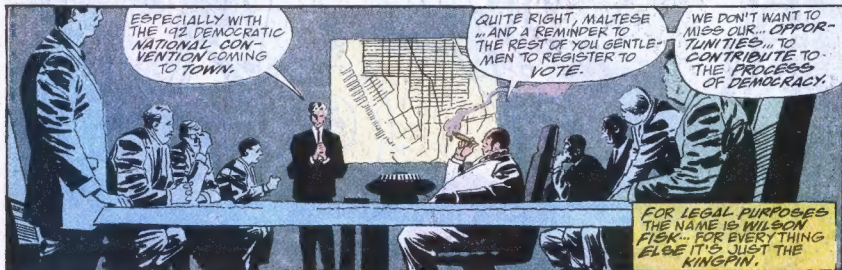


EAST RIVER WAREHOUSES, STOLEN GOODS... MURDOCK STRICTLY NARCOTICS. WE'RE LOOKING AT STREAM-LINED DISTRIBUTION FROM BOTH--

--AND TYING THOSE TO INCREASED PROSTITUTION FOR WINFALL PROFITS ALL AROUND.

THE KILLER'S VOICE RASPS ITS WAY DOWN THE HOLLOW CORRIDORS OF THE SKY-SCRAPER, CATALOGING THE VICE A CITY PERMITS ITSELF.

TAINTED LIFELOOD, PUMPED THROUGH BY THE LARGEST CONTROLLER OF REAL ESTATE--NOT OWNER, CONTROLLER--IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS OF NEW YORK.




ESPECIALLY WITH THE 1972 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING TO TOWN.

QUITE RIGHT, MALTESE... AND A REMINDER TO THE REST OF YOU GENTLEMEN TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

WE DON'T WANT TO MUD UP OUR OPPORTUNITIES... TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY.

FOR LEGAL PURPOSES THE NAME IS WILSON FISK... FOR EVERYTHING ELSE IT'S JUST THE KINGPIN.



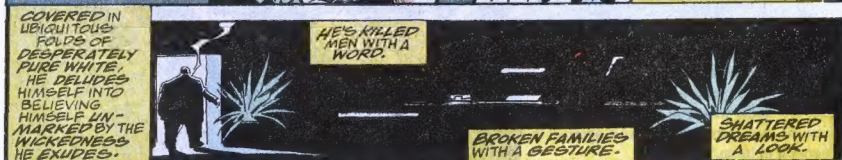
TYPHOID MARY WAS UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED IN THE BRONX, MR. FISK, EXPLAINING TO AN ERRANT BOOKMAKER THE REPERCUSSIONS OF HOLDING BACK AN UNEQUAL PERCENTAGE OF BETTING REVENUES.

REPERCUSSIONS OF A PERMANENT NATURE.

HAVE HER REPORT TO THE PENTHOUSE LATER. I'LL EXPECT A PERSONAL APOLOGY.

THE EMBODIMENT OF EVERYTHING CRIMINAL IN THIS ONCE GREAT METROPOLIS, HE HIDES THE INIQUITY HE PROMOTES BEHIND A FACADE OF BUSINESS.

"CONVINCED THAT HIS VICIOUSNESS IS A CREATIVE OFFSHOOT OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM."

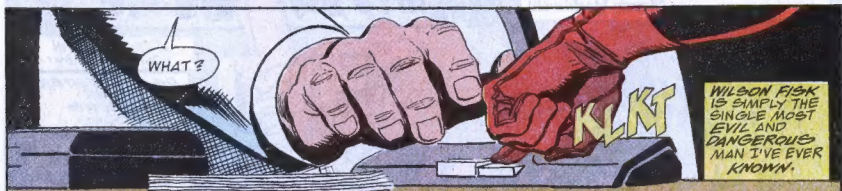


COVERED IN UBIGUITOUS FOLDS OF DESPERATELY PURE WHITE, HE DELUDES HIMSELF INTO BELIEVING HIMSELF UN-MARKED BY THE WICKEDNESS HE EXUDES.

HE'S KILLED MEN WITH A WORD.

BROKEN FAMILIES WITH A GESTURE.

SHATTERED DREAMS WITH A LOOK.



WHAT?

KLKT

WILSON FISK IS SIMPLY THE SINGLE MOST EVIL AND DANGEROUS MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

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AS FOR ME... I'M
JUST A GUY WHO
LIKES TO TAKE
RISKS.

DAREDEVIL!

HOW'S IT
HANGIN',
WILLIE?

"Men in general judge more by the sense of sight than by the sense of touch, because everyone can see but only a few can test by feeling. Everyone sees what you seem to be, few know what you really are; and those few do not dare take a stand against the general opinion."

→ Niccolò Machiavelli

A RECKONING IN
FOUR PARTS BY:

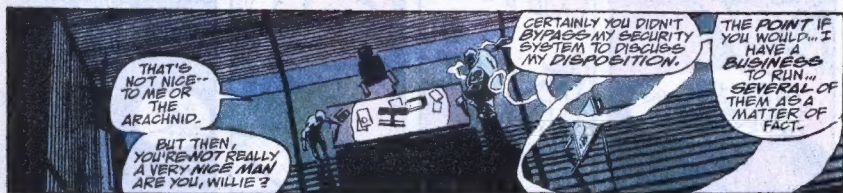
D.G. CHICHESTER
WRITER
LEE WEEKS
PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON
INKS
MAX SCHEELE
COLORS
JACK MORELLI
LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
TOM DEBALCO
CHIEF

PASSION PART I



YOU SURPRISE ME, DAREDEVIL. SARDONIC VERBAL SPARRING IS MORE SPIDER-MAN'S FORTE THAN YOURS.

YOU'VE NOT BEEN REDUCED TO SLUMMING, I HOPE.



THAT'S NOT NICE-- TO ME OR THE ARACHNID.

BUT THEN, YOU'RE NOT REALLY A VERY NICE MAN ARE YOU, WILLIE?

CERTAINLY YOU DIDN'T BYPASS MY SECURITY SYSTEM TO DISCUSS MY DISPOSITION.

THE POINT IF YOU WOULD... I HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN... SEVERAL OF THEM AS A MATTER OF FACT.



IT'S GOOD WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.

NASTY BUSINESS ABOUT YOUR ALTER-EGO'S LAW LICENSE BEING PULLED, BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE THESE DAYS?

WHAT HAPPENED, WILSON? THAT LINE ABOUT JUST IMPORTING/EXPORTING SPICES FINALLY RUN A LITTLE THIN FOR A GUY WHO OWNS A SKYSCRAPER?

I HEAR THE TV STATION'S A REAL WINNER-- IF YOU'RE INTO RATINGS BY WAY OF RACISM AND YELLOW JOURNALISM, I SUPPOSE.



C'MON DOWN ANY-TIME.

I THINK NOT. MY MICE ENTERPRISE HAS PROVED ITSELF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT STATION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.



"I'D OFFER YOU A FREE CABLE SUBSCRIPTION FOR YOUR APARTMENT..."



"OH, BUT THEN YOU DON'T HAVE AN APARTMENT, DO YOU?"

YOU'D BE THE ONE TO KNOW WILLIE-- YOU'RE THE ONE BLEW UP MY BROWN-SHIRT IN THE FIRST PLACE.



HYPER-ACUTE SENSES SMELL THE ACRID SWEAT SOAKING THE RICH FABRIC OF HIS SUIT, HEAR THE TRIP-HAMMERING OF A RACING HEART.

MALTESE, INFORM SECURITY THAT WHILE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY'LL ENCOUNTER DIABLO ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING--

I WILL NEVER THE-LESS BE PAYING \$1000.00 FOR EACH OF HIS TEETH.



HE'S ON THE EDGE--EXACTLY WHERE HE NEEDED TO BE LED TO SEE WHAT I'D BROUGHT TO SHOW HIM.

PURPOSELY LOST IN THE CLUTTERED BACK CORNERS OF HIS DESK DRAWERS, BROUGHT OUT FROM HIDING BY RADAR SENSE AND HOPE.



CRAFTED BY ARTISANS TO FRAME A GOLD MAN'S SINGLE BURNING PASSION...



HIT??

...A WOMAN AS INNOCENT AS HE IS CORRUPT, AN ANCHOR OF DECENCY IN THE BLACK SEA UPON WHICH HE SAILED.



MY GOD... WHERE DID...??

CONSCIOUSLY FORGOTTEN WHEN SHE CHOSE HER OWN LIFE OVER THE EXCUSE OF HIS...

...CAST FROM MEMORY IN FAVOR OF THE EASY PLEASURES OF A TYPHOID MARY...



BUT KEPT--IN A DARK PLACE--A SECRET PLACE--WAITING TO BE BROUGHT BACK INTO THE LIGHT.

TO BE THE LIGHT.

V-VANESSA... VANESSA...

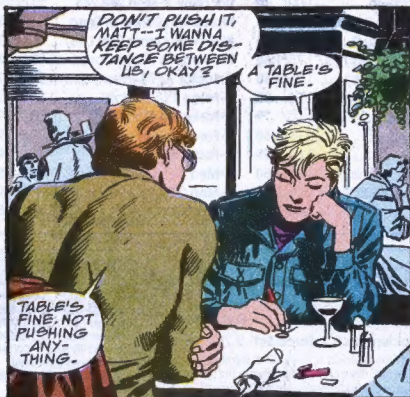
TO REAWAKEN THE HUMAN PART OF WILSON FISK.



I'M SORRY...

THE VULNERABLE PART.

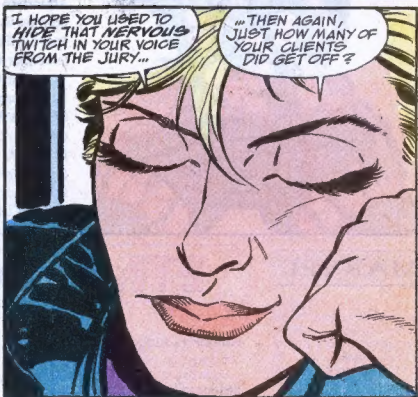
"WE COULD'VE GOTTEN A BOOTH, KAREN. THEY HAVE BOOTHS."



DON'T PUSH IT, MATT--I WANNA KEEP SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US, OKAY?

TABLE'S FINE.

TABLE'S FINE. NOT PUSHING ANYTHING.



I HOPE YOU USED TO HIDE THAT NERVOUS TWITCH IN YOUR VOICE FROM THE JURY...

...THEN AGAIN, JUST HOW MANY OF YOUR CLIENTS DID GET OFF?



ALL OF THEM!

NO KIDDING! LIGHTEN UP ALREADY, MURDOCK! ISN'T THAT WHY WE'RE HERE? TO HAVE SOME FUN?

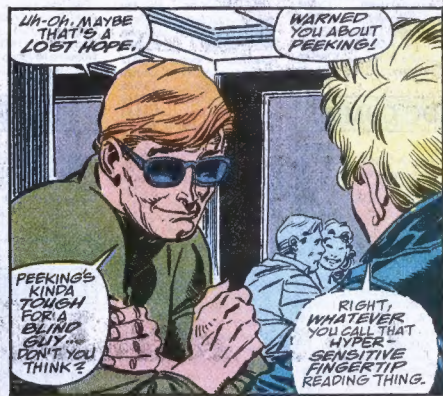


I HOPED IT WAS TO TRY TO KEEP TWO PEOPLE WHO USED TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN ANYBODY FROM BECOMING STRANGERS...

DON'T GET HEAVY ON ME...

HEY! NO FAIR PEEKING!

...WHADDA YOU GOT THERE?

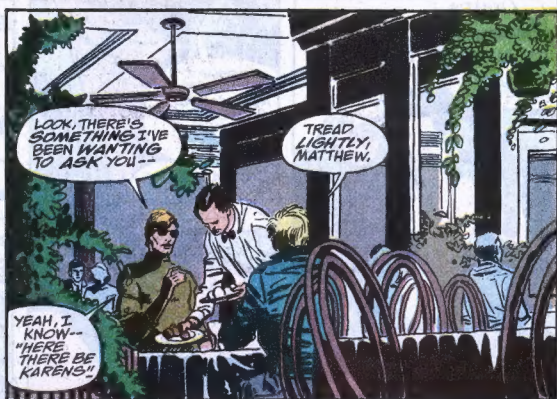


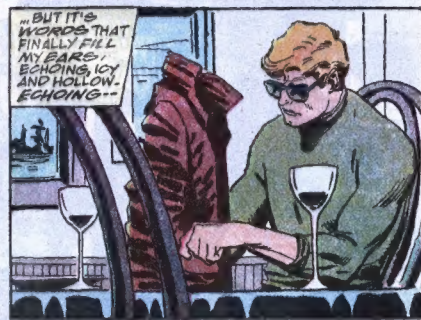
Uh-oh. Maybe that's a LOST HOPE.

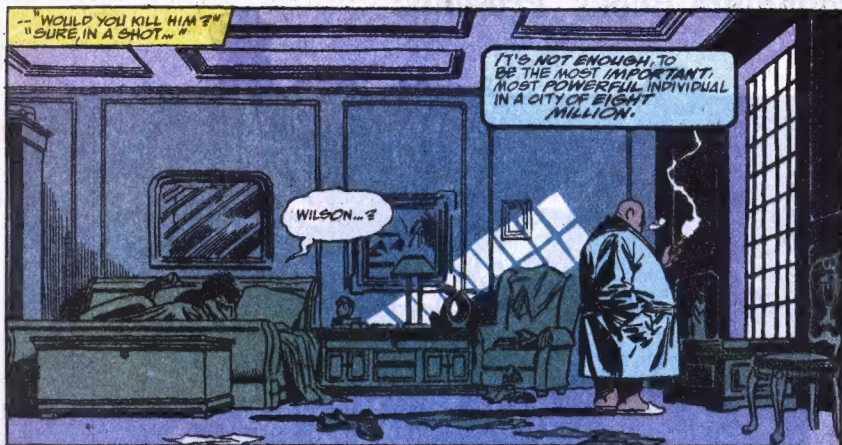
WARNED YOU ABOUT PEEKING!

PEEKING'S KINDA TOUGH FOR A BLIND GUY... DON'T YOU THINK?

RIGHT, WHATEVER YOU CALL THAT "HYPER-SENSITIVE FINGERTIP READING" THING.







-- "WOULD YOU KILL HIM?"
"SURE, IN A SHOT..."

IT'S NOT ENOUGH, TO
BE THE MOST IMPORTANT,
MOST POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL
IN A CITY OF EIGHT
MILLION.

WILSON...?



C'MON BACK,
TH' NIGHT'S
YOUNG!

NOT WHEN I
SAVE UP THE
CHANCE TO BE
THE SAME TO
ONE WOMAN.



PLENTY
MORE
TIME FOR
EXPLOR-
ING...

I WANTED MORE
--AND I HAD IT.
BUT IT ALWAYS
CAME BACK TO
THE VOWS. NO
MATTER THE
MORAL TURP-
ITUDE IN WHICH
I WALLOWED...
THE VOWS
LIFTED ME UP.

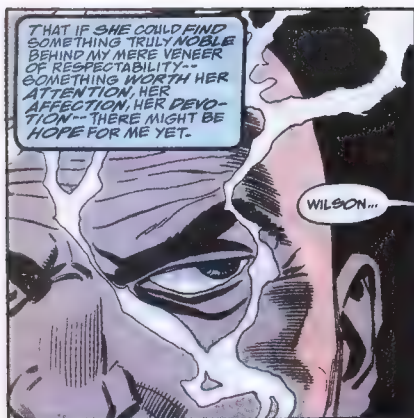


...AND
EACH
OTHER...

MATRIMONY
SAVE ME FAITH
THAT I COULD BE
DESERVING OF
VANESSA--
DEAR SWEET
VANESSA-- THEN
IT WASN'T ALL A
SHAM.

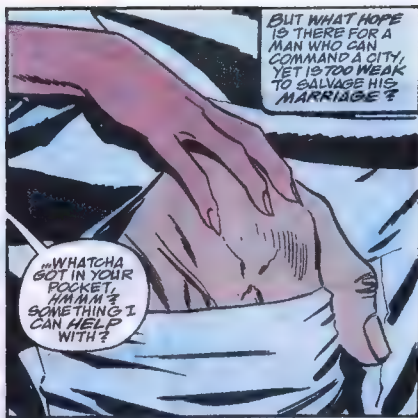


...AND A
COMBINATION
OF THE TWO!



THAT IF SHE COULD FIND SOMETHING TRULY NOBLE BEHIND MY MEKE VENEER OF RESPECTABILITY-- SOMETHING WORTH HER ATTENTION, HER AFFECTION, HER DEVOTION-- THERE MIGHT BE HOPE FOR ME YET.

WILSON...



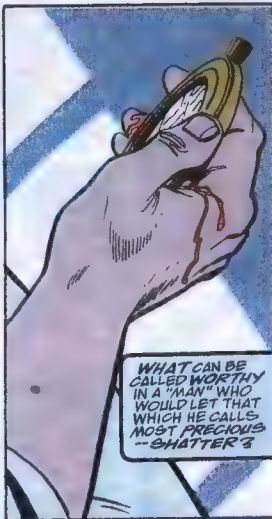
BUT WHAT HOPE IS THERE FOR A MAN WHO CAN COMMAND A CITY, YET IS TOO WEAK TO SALVAGE HIS MARRIAGE?

"WHATCHA GOT IN YOUR POCKET, HMM? SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH?"

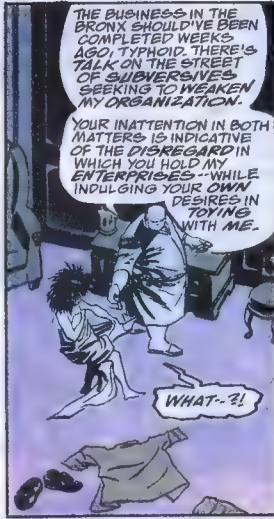


NOTHING-- NOTHING--

WELL THAT WON'T DO, GIVE ME A MINUTE... WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN... COME LIP WITH!



WHAT CAN BE CALLED WORTHY IN A "MAN" WHO WOULD LET THAT WHICH HE CALLS MOST PRECIOUS-- SHATTER?



THE BUSINESS IN THE BRONX SHOULD'VE BEEN COMPLETED WEEKS AGO. TYPHOID. THERE'S TALK ON THE STREET OF SUBVERSIVES SEEKING TO WEAKEN MY ORGANIZATION.

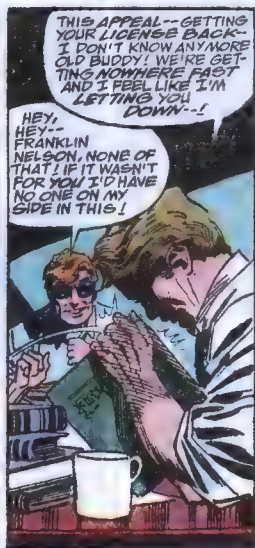
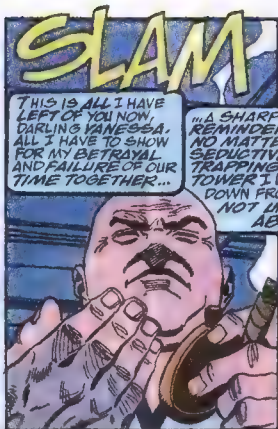
YOUR INATTENTION IN BOTH MATTERS IS INDICATIVE OF THE DISREGARD IN WHICH YOU HOLD MY ENTERPRISES-- WHILE INDULGING YOUR OWN DESIRES IN TOYING WITH ME.

WHAT--?



NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH MY "DESIRES" BEFORE, FISK!

I MAY NOT PLAY THE GAME STRAIGHT BY YOUR RULES, KINGPIN--



IT'S NOT MURDER ON MY MIND, BUT MAYBE THE NEXT BEST THING.

TYPHOID'S TWISTED PHYSICAL MAKE-UP PLAYS HAVOC WITH MY SENSES, THE BADIST, SEDUCTRESS IN HER TAKING ADVANTAGE, UNLEASHING FEELINGS IN ME I'D NEVER HAVE ADMITTED TO.

WANTS I'D NEVER KNOWN EXISTED.

I CAN STILL TURN BACK.

THE RAIN DRIVING INTO MY HYPER-SENSITIVE SKIN LIKE FIRE SEEMS DESIGNED TOWARD JUST SUCH A PURPOSE...

...YET THE SEED I PLANTED HAS BORN APPROPRIATELY BITTER FRUIT, DRIVING THE DESIRED WEDGE BETWEEN THE KINGPIN AND HIS LEFT HAND GIRL...

UPSETTING THE REIGN OF HER LOWER-SAMLOYER MEANS FIRST EXPLOITING THE RIFT BETWEEN THEM, MAKING IT PERMANENT-- UNLESS I'M WILLING TO RISK TYPHOID MAKING ME HERS AGAIN.

I CAN STILL TURN BACK.

INSTEAD I HUNKER DOWN UNDER THE CONDEMNING BEAT OF THE RAIN...AND I PRAY.

TOUGH BREAKS, HUM, MR. SABINI?

TOUGH BREAKS, HE SAYS--
TOUGH BREAKS!
YOU'RE ONE WITH WORDS, JOEY--A REGULAR WHEEL O' FORTUNE, YOU!

MY WAREHOUSE, AN' FATMAN FISK SENDS TH' WORD ON WHAT I CARRY--TAKIN' MY EYE WASN'T ENOUGH, NOW THIS INBUET TO INJURY I MY MEN AN' MONEY BEING SPENT LUG-GIN' RIP OFF & EAST AND DOPE WEST.

THEM NO-NAMES WORD HAS IT WANNA MUSCLE FISK? I PRAY THEY'RE REAL JUST FOR THE PLEASURE OF SEEING TYPHOID TOGGED OUT ON HIS FAT--

GO FIGURE, HUM? GUESS THAT'S WHY HE'S THE KINGPIN.

GO FIGURE, RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO BE KINGPIN OF THE MOUNTAIN'S HE WANTS THE SAYSO ON THE PIER'S SO MUCH--HERE'S AN EASHER WAY...

LET 'IM SIT HIS BIG BUTT IN THE MIDDLE OF FIFTH AVENUE AN' LET HIS ENORMO BUTT Ooze OFFA BOTH SIDES A' TH' ISLAND!

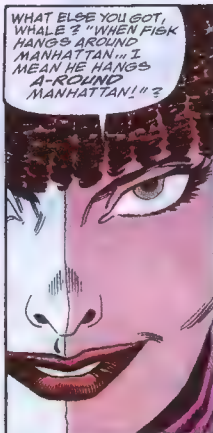


TSK, TSK, TSK, OBESITY JOKES FROM SOME-ONE NAMED JERRY "THE WHALE" --

UH, MR. SABIN!!!



-- WHAT'S THE UNDERWORLD COMING TO ?



WHAT ELSE YOU GOT, WHALE ? "WHEN FISK HANGS AROUND MANHATTAN," I MEAN HE HANGS A-ROUND MANHATTAN!" ?



JOEY, GET RID OF THE SKIRT!

YOU MAY BE SOMETHING UPTOWN, LADY, BUT DOWN HERE --

-- WE GO BY MR. SABIN'S RULES!

S' FUNNY, I WAS JUST TALKING TO SOME-ONE ABOUT RULES --



AIEEGH!!

SON OF A --

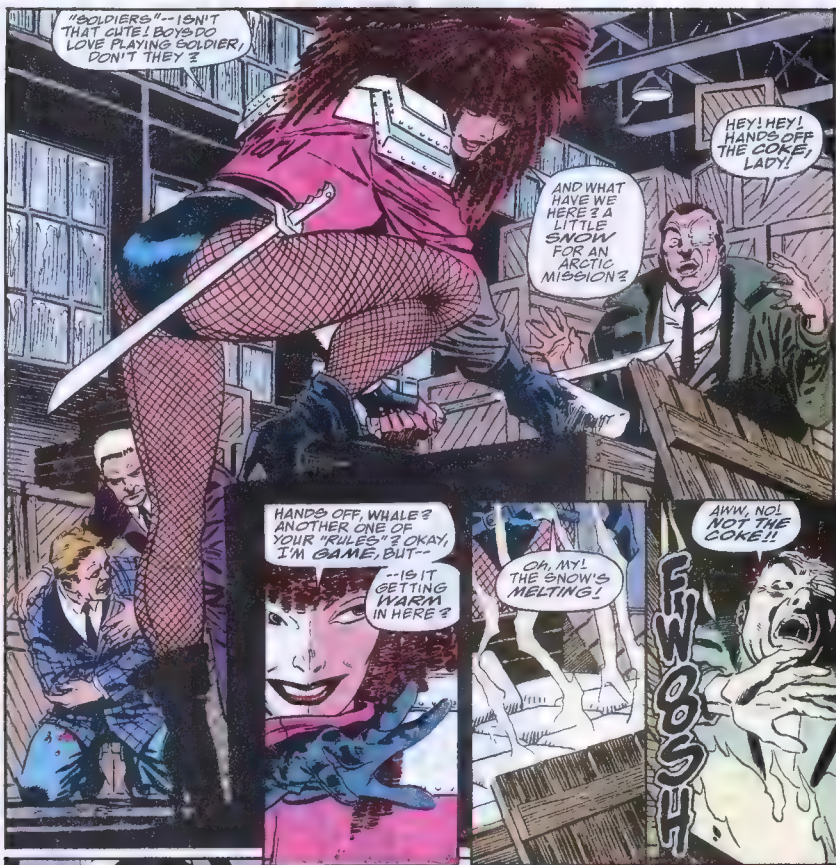
-- I DON'T DO WELL WITH RULES.



BUT YOU'LL STILL LET ME PLAY, WON'T YOU ?

HEY--HEY! I DON'T NEED THIS! I MAKE MY PAYOFFS, I DO WHAT I'M TOLD --

-- WHADDYA GONNA DO, CHISNART MY SOLDIERS 'CAUSE MAYBE I MOUTH OFF A LITTLE ?!?



"SOLDIERS"--ISN'T THAT CUTE! BOYS DO LOVE PLAYING SOLDIER, DON'T THEY?

HEY! HEY! HANDS OFF THE COKE, LADY!

AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A LITTLE SNOW FOR AN ARCTIC MISSION?

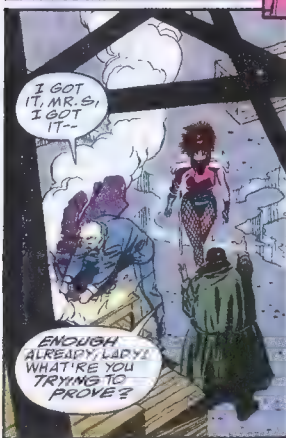
HANDS OFF, WHALE? ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR "RULES"? OKAY, I'M GAME, BUT--

--IS IT GETTING WARM IN HERE?

OH, MY! THE SNOW'S MELTING!

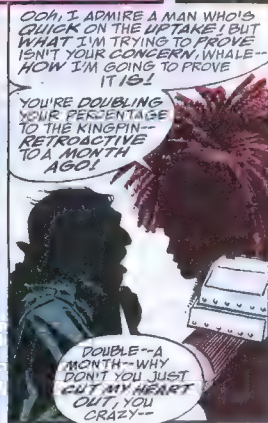
AWW, NO! NOT THE COKE!!

FWSH



I GOT IT, MR. S, I GOT IT--

ENOUGH ALREADY, LADY! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?



OOH, I ADMIRE A MAN WHO'S QUICK ON THE UPTAKE! BUT WHAT I'M TRYING TO PROVE ISN'T YOUR CONCERN, WHALE-- HOW I'M GOING TO PROVE IT IS!

YOU'RE DOUBLING YOUR PERCENTAGE TO THE KINGPIN--RETROACTIVE TO A MONTH AGO!

DOUBLE--A MONTH--WHY DON'T YOU JUST CUT MY HEART OUT, YOU CRAZY--



I'D LISTEN TO HER IF I WERE YOU...



SORRY, SABINI-- THAT "HERO THING" IS KIND OF MY BUSINESS... AND I'M HERE FOR PERSONAL REASONS.



I'M TOUCHED, RED. AFTER I ALMOST HAD YOU KILLED, I THOUGHT --WELL, YOU JUST NEVER KNOW HOW SOME GUYS ARE GONNA TAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT--

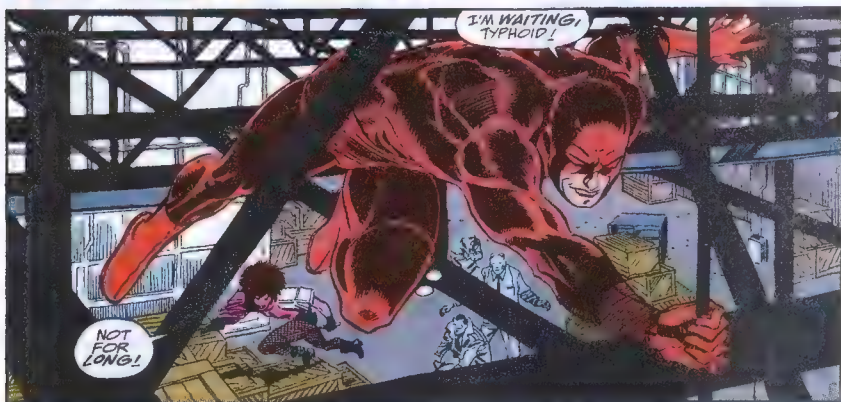
YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, WHALE. DOUBLE.

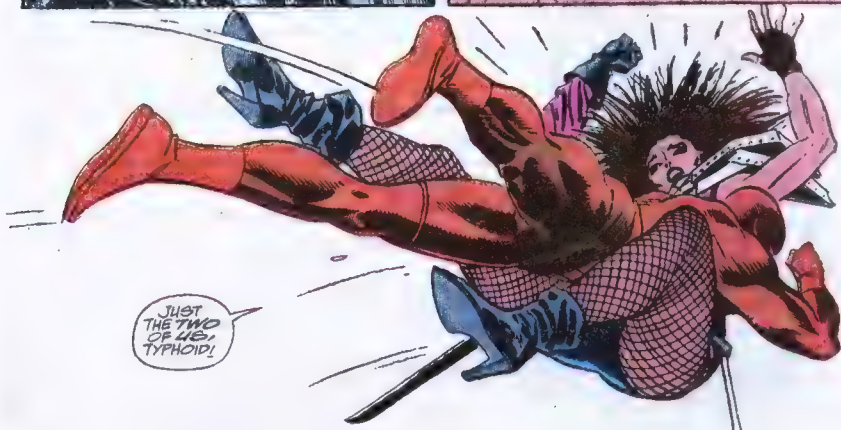
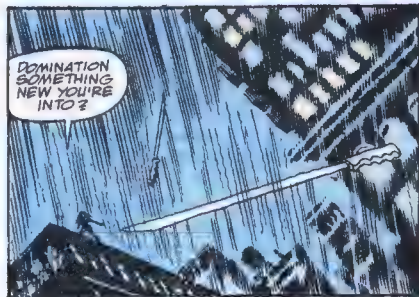
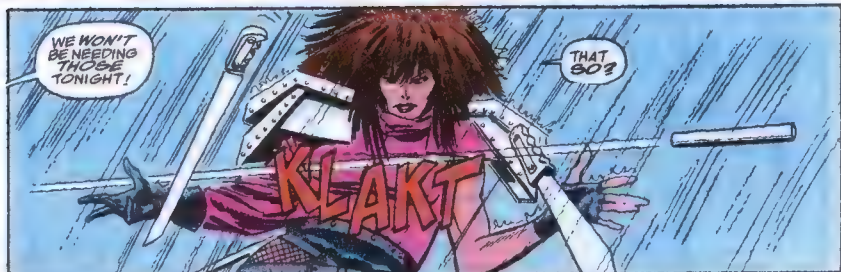
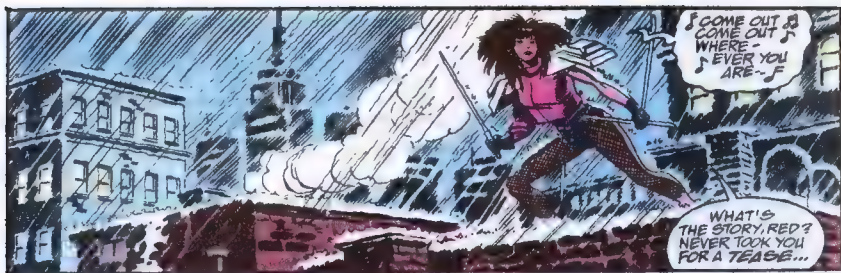


I LIKE YOU, WHALE. THAT'S WHY I'M ONLY GOUGING YOUR EMPTY EYE SOCKET.



KRAKA-DOOM







TAKING A REAL CHANGE
COMING IN THIS CLOSE.
MAN WHO TAKES RISKS
LIKE THAT--LACK OF
DISCIPLINE.

I'VE GOT THE CURE
FOR THAT RIGHT--

CAN'T GET A FIX--
KIDAR BLIND TO
HER FIGURE, SOUND
OF A HEARTBEAT
JUST NOT THERE
FOR ME.

BUT WHERE WE TOUCH--
HER SKIN FEVERISH--
FEEDING BACK INTO ME,
MY OWN TEMPERATURE
RISING, ROLLING--

--ENHANCED
SENSATION,
THREATENING
TO RUN OUT OF
CONTROL--
LIKE BEFORE,
LIKE SHE SAYS
SHE WANTS--



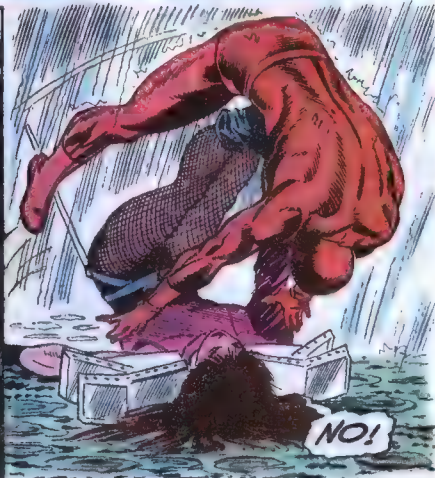
I CAN STILL
TURN BACK.

WHAT'RE--
DAREDEVIL WHAT
ARE YOU--!



THE RAIN
DRIVING--

--LIKE
FIRE--



NO!



YOU--
YOU CAN'T--

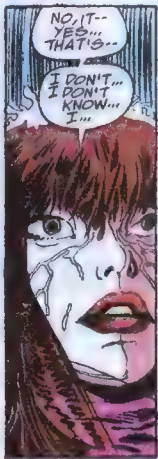


CAN'T
WHAT'S BE
THE
PURSUER
INSTEAD
OF THE UN-
WILLING
PARTNER?



YES, THAT'S IT!
YOU CAN'T--

WHY NOT?
THIS JUST
MAKES IT
EASIER,
DOESN'T
IT?



NO, IT--
YES--
THAT'S--

I DON'T...
I DON'T
KNOW...
I...



WE BOTH KNOW
I'VE FOUGHT
OFF WHAT YOU
DO TO ME FOR
TOO LONG--
NO MORE--

NO MORE...

WHEN I WAS JUST A
BOY THE WORLD TOOK THE
SIGHT FROM MY EYES,
AND GAVE BACK EXTRA ON
THE REMAINING SENSES
TO TRY AND MAKE UP
FOR THE LOSS.

NOW, AS A MAN,
I LOSE MYSELF
IN THE POWER OF
THOSE SAME
SENSES.

LORD HELP ME,
I LOSE
MYSELF...



THE MOTEL'S SOMEWHERE
IN QUEENS, MAYBE ASTORIA--
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

OBLIGATORY NEON GLOWS ITS WAY
THROUGH THE WINDOW, WARM AGAIN,
OFF AGAIN AGAINST THE DAMP COOL
OF MY SKIN.

NO. NOT
COOL--COLD.

SO COLD.

I DID--GOD,
WHAT I DID--
HAD TO BE.

TAKING TYPHOID'S
PRECONCEIVED
NOTIONS OF WHAT
I'D DO...WHAT I
WOULDN'T DO...
USING THEM TO
SURPRISE HER
INTO DROPPING
HER GUARD...

...AND LETTING
ME IN.

PAST THE DEFENSES, INTO THIS
STILL PLACE WHERE WATER
AGAINST THE WINDOWPANE TICKS
OFF THE BEATS IN THE WALTZ
I'M LEADING--A DANCE OF
SENSATION.

MARY...

MY VOICE JUST SO AS IT
WHISPERS A NAME FROM
BEFORE...A TOUCH ON
THE WRIST MIRRORING
WHAT WAS...

...A KISS FROM
ONCE UPON A TIME.

TO NE, TEXTURE--THE
LIMITED YET INFINITELY
CLEAR WAYS THE WORLD
PRESENTS ITSELF TO ME,
THE MEDIUM IN WHICH
I NOW PAINT A PICTURE
OF YESTERDAY.

A REMINDER OF WARM
WEATHER AND ROMANCE,
ME AND HER...

...NO, NOT THE CRUEL
SHROUD OF TYPHOID,
BUT THE GENTEEL
TRUTH OF THE KIND
AND SIMPLE WOMAN
BENEATH.

THE INNOCENT REALITY
EVOKED WITH A FAMILIAR
WORD...AROUSAL
WITH AN INTIMATE
CARESS...

HELLO
AGAIN,
MARY...

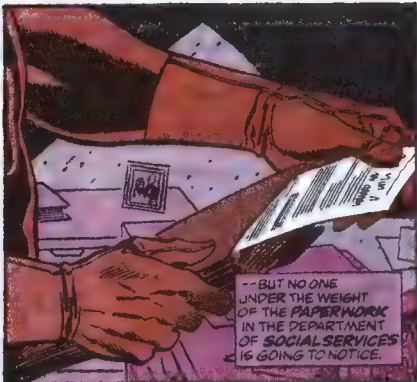
WHAT WITH THE TRAUMA
OF A TWISTED CHILD-
HOOD UNPREDICTABLY
SEIZING DANGEROUS
CONTROL, IT'S EASY TO
FORGIVE THE REAL
MARY THE SINS OF HER
DARK HALF...

...I ONLY HOPE SHE
CAN FORGIVE ME
MINE...

...AND GOODBYE...



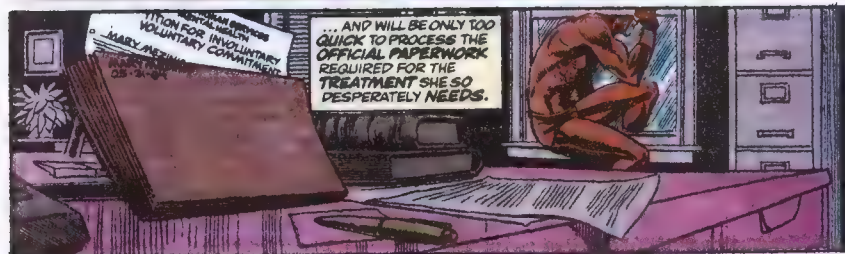
THE SIGNATURES
ARE FORGERIES,
OF COURSE-- THE
JUDGE, THE TWO
DOCTORS--



--BUT NO ONE
UNDER THE WEIGHT
OF THE PAPERWORK
IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES
IS GOING TO NOTICE.

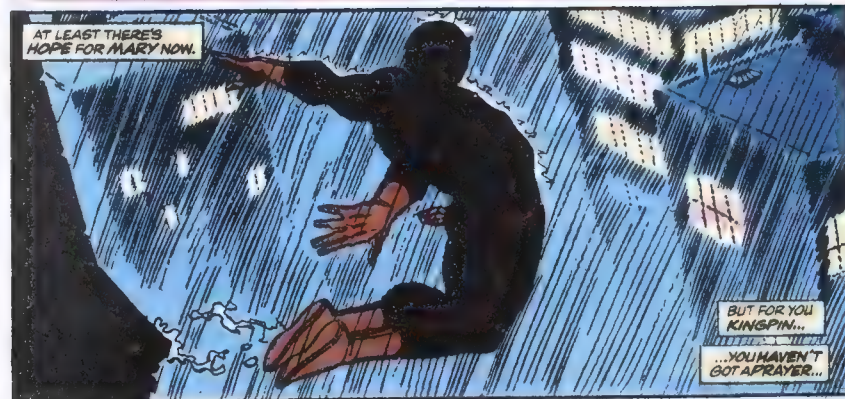


THEIR PRIORITY WILL BE
MOVING THE FORMS FROM
THE IN BOX TO THE OUT...
AND BY THE TIME THE
TRUTH COMES CLEAR
REAL DOCTORS WILL
HAVE EXAMINED
MARY...



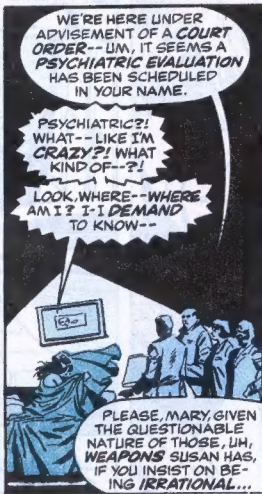
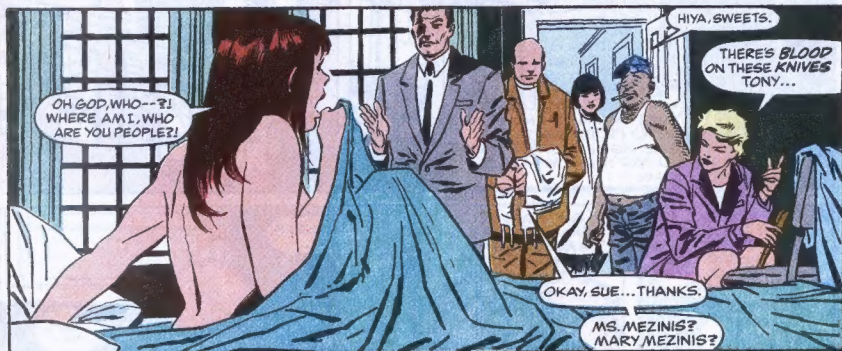
MENTAL HEALTH
DIVISION
--MARY--
VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT
03-24-84

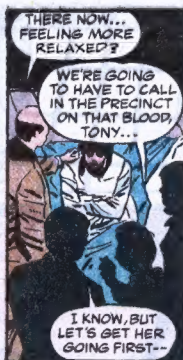
... AND WILL BE ONLY TOO
QUICK TO PROCESS THE
OFFICIAL PAPERWORK
REQUIRED FOR THE
TREATMENT SHE SO
DESPERATELY NEEDS.



AT LEAST THERE'S
HOPE FOR MARY NOW.

BUT FOR YOU
KINGPIN...
...YOU HAVEN'T
GOT A PRAYER...





STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes.

I've got a Hulk-sized problem that needs your indulgence! There's a great new book coming off the presses which I know you won't want to miss. But if I urge you to buy it, it'll seem as if I'm huckstering a product, and you know that Mr. Sincerity would never ever be guilty of such a thing! Yet, if I don't tell you, I'll be doing the hapless hordes of Marveldom a grave and irrevocable injustice!

Therefore, I'll simply tip you off to this incredibly wonderful publication without mentioning anything about your buying it. The act of purchasing is up to you, while the blameless act of enlightenment is my responsibility! A sneaky solution perhaps, but we live in a savage world!

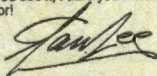
So here's the skinny — and it's a blast! Harry N. Abrams, one of the world's most prestigious publishers of art books, has just produced a mammoth-sized, super deluxe, full-color, four hundred pages-plus history of Marvel Comics called (logically enough) "MARVEL: Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics!" Not only will you find it in thousands of comics shops, but also wherever books are sold in the finest and most exclusive book stores throughout the world!

Profusely illustrated and lavishly colored, expensive but worth every penny, "MARVEL" will introduce you to virtually every artist, writer and editor who's ever contributed to the glory of comicdom's most honored bullpen! Additionally, you'll see examples of artwork which were formerly available only in select galleries and

private collections!

Unquestionably the greatest gift for anyone who's ever thrilled to the Marvel mystique, who's ever shared the fun and excitement of the most renowned super hero sagas, "MARVEL" is an adventure into rediscovery and a cornucopia of memories! It even contains a glowing introduction by yours truly, but hey, nothing's perfect!

Okay, I kept my word! I didn't tell you to buy the big, magnificent, treasure trove of comics called "MARVEL: Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics!" But after you see it, I dare you not to! Excelsior!



Change. It's all around us. Not just the kind that you find in your pockets or on the sidewalks. We're talking about the types of change you find in *life*. Change affects all of us in our everyday lives, from the highest big shot smart pants executive, all the way down to the lowliest most humble working stiff. Here at Marvel, we like to think we're part of the great galactic food chain, just producing our share of consumables to prevent us from being consumed. And as you can imagine, a company of our size goes through a lot of changes.

Just as Col. Blake was replaced by Col. Potter ... just as Mr. Roper was replaced by Mr. Furley ... just as Dick Sargent was replaced by Dick York (or was it the other way around? We never could get that straight.) so, too, do changes occur here in the Marvel offices.

Sometimes all it takes is for one guy to leave, and that sets off a flurry of movement, a burst of motion, a sudden gust of activity, with winds up to 90 miles per hour. It all started when AVENGERS editor Howard Mackie, who may already be a winner in the Publishers' Clearinghouse Give-away, announced he was going freelance. Since Howard's GHOST RIDER series has proven to be the hottest thing since tofutti, Howard felt the time was right to bolt from his staff position like a motorcyclist out of Hades.

As soon as he found out Howard was on the verge of leaving, Len Kaminski, who is not a doctor but he plays one on TV, skeddaddled over to the office of Ralph Macchio (who is quick with a joke or a light of your smoke). This necessitated Howard hiring a new assistant, Richard Ashford, who speaks two languages — British and English. With Howard out of the picture, Richard was left without a boss. Since most of Howard's books were going to Nel Yomtov, who never could tell which one was Stelky and which one was Hutch, Richard decided he would go with them and he wound up as Nel's assistant.

In all the hubbub, Tom Brevoort, who's never seen a purple cow (and hopes he never sees one) was promoted to managing editor, with Sarra Mossoff (who'd rather see than be one) signing on as his assistant. Tom is now responsible for MARVEL MASTERWORKS and the all-new monthly DEATHLOK series. Kelly Corvese (who didn't understand *Twin Peaks*, but thinks he's finally figured out who shot J.R.), was also promoted to Managing Editor, and one of his first projects will be launching an all-new LUKE CAGE series! With Kelly moving out, this left Terry Kavanagh, who has been alive forever and wrote the very first song, without an assistant. So Terry hired former editorial assistant Mark Powers, who, say what you will about him, at least he got the trains to run on time.

AUGUST
COOLOMETER

- TERMINATOR 2
- JAMES BROWN
- JEEPS
- THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
- BILLIARDS
- YGM BASINGER
- MONDO MARVEL, THE TALK SHOW
- BAGELS
- GLOBAL WARMING
- ROBIN HOOD
- STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
- LASER KIROKE
- POLO SHIRTS
- FLOSSING
- BUNGEE JUMPING
- THE METRIC SYSTEM
- ANDREW DICE CLAY
- TV TALK SHOWS
- YUPIES
- HUDSON HAWK
- SKATEBOARDS
- POLITICAL CORRECTNESS
- RECORD ALBUMS
- DAY-GLO CLOTHES
- THE COSSY SHOW
- NUCLEAR WINTER
- McLEAN STEVENSON

Somewhere in the middle of all this commotion, Glenn Herdling, who if he could walk that way wouldn't need the talcum powder, was promoted to Submissions Editor. Beaming aboard as his assistant was Pat Garrahy, who remembers only you can prevent forest fires. Glenn and Pat will also be working on custom comics, and the semi-regular DESTROYER series (which works out well, as both Glenn and Pat are semi-regular kinds of guys).

Amidst all this hoopla, we bid a fond farewell to staff letterer supreme Chris Eliopolous, who's badder than old King Kong and meaner than a junkyard dog. Chris, too, has joined Howard Mackie in the wild and wacky world of freelance. Taking Chris's place on staff was John Babcock, who would like to both swing on a star and carry Moonbeams home in a jar ... if only he could find a big enough jar.

We also bid a fond farewell to Bullpenner Bettie Ringma, who could run the fifty yard dash in under an hour. Bettie's replacement is Fung Ming Ma, who hails from Hong Kong, and walks softly but carries a big stick. Fung Ming picked a good time to join the Marvel staff, since many of your favorite Bullpenners will be appearing in this month's issue of SPIDER-MAN #15! This issue features the Impossible Man, who has always wanted his own comic book, and will stop at nothing to get it! Spidey's in there, too, of course, trying to stop him from destroying the Marvel offices! There are plenty of surprise guests, who are so offbeat, we couldn't even begin to name them! (Toxic Avenger, Night Cat — oops, sorry. We couldn't resist.) But wait — you haven't heard the best part yet. The cover of each issue of SPIDER-MAN #15 will be individually numbered! No two will be exactly the same! There will only be several hundred thousand copies printed, so you'll have to act fast to get one of each! Collect them all!

In closing, we'll note one final change that recently occurred.

It was with heavy hearts and heavy hands that we said goodbye to the NEW MUTANTS after its 100th issue. Alas, the book had stopped living up to its title after issue one. Clearly something had to be done. And so, it is with great pomp and circumstance that this month we introduce the all-new X-FORCE #1, thus fulfilling our postal obligation to have at least four titles beginning with the letter "X." Each copy of X-FORCE #1 will include one of four different trading cards, so you may want to consider taking a second job. You're going to need extra income by the time the all-new X-MEN #1 comes out in August!

Remember, you don't have to buy one copy of every Marvel Comic every month ... but it sure helps!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR — LEN KAMINSKI: ASSISTANT EDITOR

C/O MARVEL COMICS—387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH—NEW YORK, NEW YORK—10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST!

Dear Ralph,

As the reins are passed from one pair of hands to another, let us pause and give thanks to one who has contributed so much to DAREDEVIL.

To hell and back

Our hero came.

The journey's only promise:

He'd never be the same.

Kingpin, inferno

Bullet, Typhoid Mary;

Courageously he faced them

With spirit, strikes and patty.

Politics, the environment;

Timely issues always aplenty.

The pilgrimage relentlessly inward

Through the genius of Ann Nocenti.

Thank you Ann, and welcome, D.G. Chichester—your own genius quickly reaffirmed with DAREDEVIL #292.

Jan C. Childress
82 Pilepoint St
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thank you, Jan. We are all touched.

Dear Ralph (like we're personal friends),

I, for one, am glad to see Ann Nocenti gone and Chichester taking over. Don't get me wrong, I know Nocenti is an excellent writer, but the lady needs a nice fun night out on the town or an "upper" or something. She's just too darn depressing. That's the main reason I've never been a committed DAREDEVIL collector, and the same can be said for my friends. Nothing good ever happens to him. It's all death, destruction, loss, and regret. It gets old after a while.

As for issues #292-293, I enjoyed them except for a few things. I've found that most writers don't give Taskmaster the credit he deserves. I've always thought of him as one of the most powerful, deadly criminals alive. He is usually far too easily beaten. I am glad, however, that DD didn't beat him in just an out and out slugfest. I'd have doubts that he could. And why show his face? It's never been seen before. Why here, why in this way? Any chance that was a mask?

I sure hope that Kingpin gets the shaft by who ever that is. Could it beeee... Baron Wolfgang Von Strucker?! If so keep in mind he has been, and could still be, an ally/servant of the Red Skull, who was beaten by Kingpin in CAPTAIN AMERICA last year. If this is not Skull vengeance, then how about a story in this mag some time? DD could get another crack at Cross Bones (what's my deal with skulls today). I'd love to see Skull try Kingpin and tangle with DD.

Anyway, I hope this becomes a book I really want regularly, and I'm open minded to the new crew. Until Ghost Rider does not have a guest shot somewhere, make mine Marvel.

Cory Patterson
1823 Northridge Court
Spokane, WA 99208

Well, Cory, by now you know that it was

Indeed that master of the monocolo—Baron Wolfgang Von Strucker—who was behind it all.

Dear Marvel,

First let me start by telling you how much I enjoy your comic. Second, let me tell you that I loved the ending of issue #291 immensely. Seeing Foggy wondering what to say to Matt when he finds him—then to have him turn around and find out that he was there listening the whole time—and that he forgave him—it was great! Foggy was always one of my favorites. Now all you have to do is bring back Karen Page. I would like to see DD team up with Punisher and Spider Man. I also expect to see Ghost Rider in here soon, since he's been just about everywhere else. As for future villains, who better than Taskmaster and Tombstone. Both have taken on some pretty powerful people—Tombstone: Spider Man (I figure that's enough) and Taskmaster: Captain America, Thing, Hawkeye, and Ant Man. Plus, both are always trying to be crimelords or something in that area.

Next I would like to address the Elektra Graphic Novel. The art and story were wonderful, but I still have some questions:

1) Is Bullseye really dead? And since this story has to take place after issue #290, does it mean that the story took place a good amount of time in the future, or that it doesn't go along with the regular Marvel Universe continuity?

2) Why bring back Elektra if you were just gonna kill her in the end of the story? Once again I'm hoping this doesn't take place in the regular Marvel Continuity.

Scott Pasch
4910 Heversham Court
Fairfax, VA 22032

To answer your questions, Scott:

- 1) Bullseye is very much alive.
- 2) Elektra's dead?

Dear Marvel,

The Hulk has his MASTERWORKS. The Avengers have at least two MASTERWORKS. Spider Man has three MASTERWORKS. The X-Men have three MASTERWORKS. The Fantastic Four have at least two MASTERWORKS. There's even a MASTERWORKS for old monster stories. When does Daredevil get his MASTERWORKS?!

Alexander Chauvin
122 Syosset Circle
Syosset, NY 11791

DAREDEVIL MASTERWORKS is already in the works, and is due to be out in stores this fall. Look for it!

Dear Marvel,

Fate (or was it the editor?) has assigned a new writer to DAREDEVIL. Now, how do I like this new writer's premiere issue? How

can ya ask? It's great! Far greater than I had expected! Taskmaster, one of my all-time favorite villains, is in it! Ya-hooo! And Tombstone... Tombstone is back!! Hooray! He's not dead! I told ya, didn't I see my letter in WEB OF SPIDER MAN #74? And there were also a few panels with Typhoid. Guys, read my lips: get that girl in action! She's darn good! I love her as much as I love Elektra (bring her back too!).

Oh yeah, I almost forgot, there were five pages of Punisher in this issue too. Listen, folks, if this is what you call "Battle With The Punisher", please warn me in advance when you have in mind to really exaggerate! But all in all, I really liked this issue. Taskmaster is the best. Dan G. Chichester Rules!

Tue Sorenson
Blytaekkerporten 135
DK-2650 Hvidovre
Denmark

Dear D.G.,

"They like to-to touch your hair, to pull on it before—so yeah—I cut my hair!" —Karen Page: DAREDEVIL #294.

Masterful storytelling on the part of D.G. Chichester. Where Ann Nocenti took an almost metaphysical approach to DAREDEVIL, the return to down-to-earth tales by D.G. gives DAREDEVIL a gritty, realistic style within the bounds of Marvel storytelling.

The return of Karen Page, as well as, the other regulars—Foggy, Typhoid Mary, and Kingpin—has me excited about this new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite blind attorney. The thought of Matt regaining his license to practice law leaves me speechless with anticipation.

What Ann did with the super powered team ups, D.G. is preparing to do with the help of a strong supportive cast. Both forms of storytelling have their merits, but after bouts with the Inhumans and Mephisto, I'm looking for a long stretch of stories set in Hell's Kitchen.

Even the combination of Lee Weeks and Al Williamson works extremely well in conveying the down to earth nature of the stories. Bringing up sensitive matters—such as pornography—is a tricky matter (one handled quite well by the new creative team). Given the general direction of the past few issues and the developments with the Hand, I think the readers are in for a real treat!

Charles S. Novinskie
P.O. Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502

